

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIBRARY SYSTEM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR ‘HOT SPOTS’

WAUKESHA – The Waukesha County Federated Library System received the 2006 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award for its Creating Wireless Hotspots in Member Libraries program.

County Executive Dan Vrakas stated, “I am proud of the Federated Library System’s efforts to collaborate with its member libraries to provide the technology needed to make libraries ‘hot spots’ for Internet connectivity, as well as for their patrons. Our residents should be appreciative of the innovative approaches that system staff have undertaken to make our library network one of the best in the state.”

The project established wireless public Internet access or “hot spots” at 13 public libraries throughout the system. The need to implement such technology is in response to the increased use of wireless access in higher education and business while shrinking budgets are limiting libraries’ abilities to meet the greater demand expressed by library users requesting access to the Internet.

Hartland Public Library Director Nancy Massnick said, “The Hartland Public Library is a small, full-service library that gets heavy use. Due to tight budgets and limited space, it can only support a few public computer terminals at the facility. The ‘hot spots’ provide all of our customers with more opportunities to access the Internet because laptop owners can now bring their computers to the library to surf the Net, which frees-up the terminals for those without such portability.”

The NACo Achievement Awards recognize counties for creative and innovative program development and implementation, efficient management of operations and responsible government to local citizens. It is the sixth award that the library system has received in five years.

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